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Datum/Date

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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Purdum, Howard, E.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
Office

**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent
Convention

Application Number

EP 99 94 8366

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X A	WO 92 20420 A (ACTON ELIZABETH ;MORRIS GEORGE JOHN (GB)) 26 November 1992 (1992-11-26) * abstract; example 6 * * page 1, paragraph 1 - page 2, last paragraph * * page 15, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3 * * page 18, paragraph 2 - page 20, line 1 * ---	1-5, 14-19, 30,31 33	B01D9/00 B01D9/02 B01D15/08 B01D17/038 B01D21/26 B01D61/24 B01D9/04
X	DE 22 49 775 A (WAAGNER BIRO AG) 26 April 1973 (1973-04-26) * page 2, paragraph 2 - page 6, paragraph 1 * ---	1-5,7, 10, 14-19, 22,30,31	
X	EP 0 765 605 A (KRAFT JACOBS SUCHARD R & D INC) 2 April 1997 (1997-04-02) * abstract * * page 6, line 34 - line 37 * * page 5, line 57 - page 6, line 8 * --- -/--	1-4,10, 14-19	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B01D

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	14 February 2003	Degen, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C23)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-25,30,31,33

Method and system for concentrating a material comprising the steps of cooling at least a portion of the material to a temperature at or below the melting point of the material and applying ultrasonic energy to at least the cooled portion of the material, to form a solid phase.

2. Claims: 26-29,34

Container comprising a flexible wall portion enclosing a treatment chamber for allowing heat transfer between an external heat transfer device and said enclosed material and ultrasonic energy transmission from an external energy source into said material.

3. Claim : 32

A method for processing a blood plasma, comprising the steps of cooling at least a portion of a blood plasma concentrate to a temperature sufficient to form a system comprising a solid and liquid phase and separating said solid phase from the liquid phase.

4. Claims: 35-39

A method for processing a temperature-sensitive material comprising the steps of eluting said material through a stationary phase while supplying ultrasonic energy from an external energy source to the material.

The present application lacks unity "à priori" since four unrelated inventions are claimed. Neither the combination of the essential features nor the inherent problem to be solved (and consequently also the corresponding solutions thereof) in the group of inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Furthermore, there is no technical connection between the solutions of the different technical problems addressed in the four inventions which could give the expression to common inventive features. Thus the present application does not seem to fulfill the requirements of article 82 EPC.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 99 94 8366

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

14-02-2003

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